The driving force behind the historical marker program in Pennsylvania when it was instituted 37 years ago was Thomas F. Murphy of Scranton. Murphy, a recognized authority on state and local history, wrote a two-volume history of Lackawanna County in 1928, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of Lackawanna County on August 13, 1878. Contained in Murphy's Jubilee History of Lackawanna County are a photograph and biographical sketch of Murphy.

The next speaker on the program was Robert Smith, who offered the restoration committee the use of the resources of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania in the committee's efforts to restore Carbondale City Hall. Following Smith's remarks, John V. Buberniak, a member of the restoration committee, presented a history of the Wurts brothers and of the establishment and development of the anthracite industry in Carbondale.

Representative Frank Serafini then addressed the group and praised the restoration committee for its work on behalf of the city of Carbondale. Powell again spoke to the group and pointed out five instances in the history of Carbondale when groups of Carbondale citizens, imbued with civic pride, took action on behalf of the city of Carbondale, not because they had to, rather, because they wanted to. Those five instances in the history of Carbondale, chosen from among many others, were in 1851 (when Carbondale was incorporated as a city), in 1852, 1859 and 1892 (when Carbondale's three City Halls were erected), and in 1981 (when the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall was formed).